

Lamprey TRC Annual Report November 2007

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
NH Senate President, Sylvia Larsen
Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, Terie Norelli
Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Thomas S. Burack
and the State Library

November 1, 2007
by the
Lamprey River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Lamprey River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2006. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, "The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the State Library."

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Lamprey TRC at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/instream/lamprey.asp?link=meetings&meet=trc. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings. UNH has a Lamprey Instream Flow Project website at www.unh.edu/erg/lamprey/.

The Technical Review Committee of the Lamprey Instream Flow Pilot Program met March 7, 2007 at NHDES offices to hear presentations on the draft Lamprey Target Fish Community (TFC) and on the MesoHABSIM (Meso-scale Habitat Simulation Model) model for flow needs assessment. The discussion on the TFC took most of the meeting, so another meeting was held April 26. The second meeting also discussed the TFC at length resulting in a decision to make certain final changes and send the results by email. The final version was dated June 21, 2007 – Final Version of Lamprey Target Fish Community. These findings are posted on the web at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/instream/lamprey/study.html under Task 5. The meeting also heard the presentation about the MesoHABSIM method for assessing protected flows. MesoHABSIM is a habitat simulation model that identifies the availability of habitat relative to stream flow changes for representative fish species. The conceptual basis and analytical approaches were described. Also, described at this meeting was the transect assessment method for assessing wetlands and riparian vegetation. The transect method compares water levels at a range of stream flows to elevations of riparian vegetation zones on the banks and in the flood plains of the river. Flow needs to sustain the seeding and growth of the native riparian vegetation in these zones will be determined using this method.

No other meetings were held while the consultant's focused on the field work necessary to complete the protected flow assessments. The next Lamprey TRC meeting will present the preliminary results of this field work and is expected to be held this winter.

Committee changes

On March 22, 2007, Senator Martha Fuller Clark replaced Senator Carl Johnson on the committee as a legislative representative following the November 2006 elections. Representative Cooney has not been replaced following his retirement after the elections.

LAMPREY RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

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